

BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED TASK FORCE (BCWTF)

Stakeholders Meeting Minutes

1:30-3:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Rotunda Room, Veterans Memorial Building, Culver City

I Introductions

Jessica Dominguez welcomed meeting participants, who briefly introduced themselves.

The November meeting minutes were accepted. Stakeholders were informed of the task force web address (www.ladpw.org/wmd/stakeholders). New stakeholders can add themselves as Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force members and current stakeholders can update their information with a pin number that was distributed to them or view other members as well.

The following handouts were given: Draft Ballona Creek Watershed Procedures and Protocols and the November meeting minutes.

Wing Tam distributed draft GIS maps of the Ballona Creek Watershed to the task force members who did not receive maps at the previous meeting.

II Final Adoption of Mission Statement

The objectives of the Mission Statement were discussed and the following changes were made:

Item 2: Add the words recovery and enhancement to the heading. There was a question about the difference in meaning of the words restoration and recovery. Roy van de Hoek explained that when you talk about restoration, your focus is about plants and when you talk about recovery, your focus is on animals.

The recommendation was to have Item 2 read: Ecosystem Restoration/ Recovery/ Enhancement

A motion was made by Howard Hackett to adopt the goals and objectives (mission statement). Bobbi Gold second the motion. All were in favor and the BCWTF mission statement was adopted.

III Constructed Wetlands Presentation

Mike Mullin with the City of Los Angeles Watershed Protection Division gave a presentation on constructed wetlands and how they relate to the watershed. He explained that the operation of a natural wetland is similar to that of treatment wetlands. He mentioned three categories: natural wetlands, constructed wetlands, and treatment wetlands. He mentioned that there are regulatory requirements for wetlands to treat the water, and how the water becomes better than when it enters. There is a large interest in wetlands because it creates a multiple benefit enhancement and they have low operating

costs, though they are land intensive. Some benefits are that they provide water quality improvements, flood detention, and recreational and educational uses.

IV Procedures and Protocols

“Issues to be Addressed” section: There was a small discussion on this section and the group added more to the existing list.

“Roles” section: No objection was made.

“Attendance and Participation at Meetings” section:

Item 3: No final decision was made.

Item 5: A decision was made to put a period after e-mail and start a new sentence with “In the event that he or she is unable to attend....”.

In a general discussion about meeting places (Item 7), Doug Delgado and Roy van de Hoek had suggested that in addition to (or in lieu of) our monthly BCWTF meetings, we should get out and visit places in the watershed. A bus tour, such as those organized for the San Gabriel River master plan process, would help build collective knowledge of the watershed.

It was the consensus of the committee members to return to item 3 only.

“Decision Making” section:

Item 1: Take out the word “proactively” and replace the word “council” with “task force”.

There was a discussion over the word “consensus”. Arthur Golding offered to provide an explanation on consensus decision making and agreed to provide a written explanation to the task force.

James Alamillo suggested having an item in the “Decision Making” section with regards to issues that are revisited and another about taking advocacy positions.

Jim Lamm noted that in consensus decision making, formal motions, as we did earlier in the meeting, normally would not be required.

It was the consensus of the committee to revisit item 3 at the next meeting.

“Information” section: No objection was made.

“Amendments” section: It was suggested that clarification be made to the last sentence.

V Formation of a Request for Proposal (RFP) Sub-Committee

Jim Lamm asked for volunteers for an RFP sub-committee, noting the desire of the co-chairs and facilitator to participate. In addition he noted that a diverse membership of about 8 people likely would work best. By consensus, the following were selected:

- Wing Tam, City of Los Angeles Watershed Protection Division
- John Crosse, Vista Del Mar Neighbors Association
- Ginachi Amah, Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Roy van de Hoek, Sierra Club/Ballona Watershed Council & Conservancy
- Menerva (Daoud) Ariki or Jessica Dominguez, LACDWP-WMD
- Jim Donovan, National Park Service
- Jim Lamm, Ballona Creek Renaissance
- Guang-Yu Wang, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project

VI Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2002, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Culver City. (After the December 12 meeting, the Dan Patacchia Room at Culver City Hall was reserved for January 9).

VII Action Items

The "Issues to be Addressed" section will be revised to reflect today's meeting and will be the focus of discussion at our January meeting, as we categorize and prioritize the issues for possible inclusion in the watershed management plan.

Also, the "Decision Making" section will be revised to clarify consensus decision making.

After discussion of these two sections, it is hoped that the task force will be in a position to adopt the Procedures and Protocols as amended. To that end, Jessica Dominguez will distribute the revised draft Procedures and Protocols document to the task force before the next meeting for everyone's review to facilitate an informed and productive discussion.

BALLONA CREEK WATERSHED TASK FORCE ATTENDEES December 12, 2001

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